— non-availability of equipment in time;

— inadequate infrastructure in rural areas like stable power supply & efficient road communications;

— difficult and inaccessible terrain;

— insurgency.

Public Telephones installed in Urban Areas

— non-availability of spare capacity in some of the exchanges;

— non-availability of STD facility; and

— low demand and sparse population.

Inclusion of items in wholesale Price Index

†*619. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 536 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th February, 2000 and state:

(a) whether some of the items which are included in the old system of determination of WPI have been excluded in the new system; and

(b) if so, the names of such items?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) To reflect the structural changes that have taken place in the economy since 1981-82, a large number of new commodities have been added in the new Wholesale Price Index (WPI) series with base 1993-94=100 and a few commodities with diminished importance have been dropped.

136 new items have been included in the new series and 150 items of the earlier series have been dropped due to their having become insignificant in terms of their relative value of production in the economy. There has also been an amalgamation of certain items with other items because of their similarity of characteristics and for making their description more meaningful. Further, some items have

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

also been split into important grades/varieties and each grade is being treated as a separate item causing lists of certain products to expand.

The details of the deleted items in the new WPI series by major commodity groups & subgroups are listed below:

Commodity Groups	No. of items deleted	Names of some deleted items
Primary Articles	9	
Non Food Articles	3	Raw hemp, Mahua seed, lac
Minerals	6	mica, kyanite, petroleum crude etc.
Fuel Croup	2	Electricity (special), electricity (other uses)
Manufactured Products	139	
Food Products	13	tin milk powder, canned juices, kardi oil etc.
Textiles	15	poplin shirting, powerloom cloth, art silk cloth etc.
Chemical & Chem. Prod.	31	nitric & sulphuric acid, vitamin capsules, agarbatti etc.
Non Metallic Mineral Prod.	3	non ceramic tiles, crockery, bangles etc.
Basic Metals, Alloy & Metal Prod.	26	scrap stainless steel, tin, lead, locks etc.
Other Sub Groups	51	dumpers, refrigerators (domestic) radiators, table fans etc.
TOTAL:	150	

Amendments in the Property Registration, Transfer of Property and the Indian Stamp Acts

*620. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Property Registration Act, Transfer of Property Act and the Indian Stamp Act;

(b) if so, the details of amendments likely to be made in the proposed Acts; and

(c) to what extent the amendments in the proposed Acts may bring